

## CLAIMS

1. A gaming method comprising:  
selecting a combination of symbols in a matrix of M rows and N columns,  
selected symbols including at least one special symbol and other symbols; and  
5 converting at least one of said other symbols to at least one different symbol due  
to said at least one special symbol being selected for said matrix.
2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising displaying said matrix.
3. The method of Claim 2 further comprising converting displayed symbols in said  
matrix to different symbols due to said at least one special symbol being selected for said  
10 matrix.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said selecting comprises operating a pseudo  
random number generator to identify symbols for said matrix.
5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising providing an award for certain  
combinations of symbols across one or more pay lines.
- 15 6. The method of Claim 1 where M equals 3 and N equals 5.
7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said at least one special symbol is selected for a  
position in a row and column in said matrix, wherein said converting comprises  
converting symbols to the left of said special symbol in said row to another symbol.
8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said converting comprises converting said  
20 symbols to the left of said special symbol to a symbol in the leftmost position of said row.
9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said at least one special symbol is selected for a  
position in a row and column in said matrix, wherein said converting comprises  
converting symbols to the right of said special symbol in said row to another symbol.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said converting comprises converting said symbols to the right of said special symbol to a symbol in the rightmost position of said row.
11. The method of Claim 1 wherein said special symbol is selected for a position in a row and column in said matrix, and wherein said converting comprises converting symbols adjoining said special symbol to special symbols.
12. The method of Claim 1 wherein said special symbol is selected for a position in a row and column in said matrix, and wherein said converting comprises converting symbols in certain positions in said matrix to other symbols.
- 10 13. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises converting a visual image of initially selected symbols to a converted symbol.
14. The method of Claim 1 wherein said special symbol is a wild card which represents a symbol of a highest value across a pay line.
- 15 15. The method of Claim 1 further comprising determining, after said converting, whether symbols in said matrix include a winning combination of symbols by determining symbols across at least one pay line.
16. The method of Claim 15 wherein said at least one pay line comprises horizontal pay lines.
17. The method of Claim 16 wherein said at least one pay line further comprise bent pay lines.
- 20 18. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises randomly selecting certain ones of said other symbols for conversion.
19. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises converting certain ones of said other symbols to said special symbol.

20. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises randomly selecting certain ones of said other symbols for conversion to said special symbol.
21. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises converting at least one symbol on a pay line to another symbol on said pay line.
- 5 22. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises converting said at least one special symbol to another symbol selected by a player.
23. The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting comprises changing any symbols on a pay line to the left of a special symbol to a leftmost symbol on said pay line and converting any symbols on said pay line to the right of said special symbol to a rightmost  
10 symbol on said pay line.
24. A gaming device comprising:
- a display device; and
- control circuitry for controlling said display device, said control circuitry  
for controlling said display device to display a combination of selected symbols in  
15 a matrix of M rows and N columns, selected symbols in said matrix including at  
least one special symbol and other symbols, and for controlling said display  
device to convert at least one of said other symbols to at least one different  
symbol due to said at least one special symbol being selected for said matrix.
25. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device  
20 to convert displayed symbols in said matrix to different symbols due to said at least one  
special symbol being selected for said matrix.
26. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry comprises a pseudo random  
number generator to identify symbols for said matrix.
27. The device of Claim 24 further comprising a payout device for providing an  
25 award for certain combinations of symbols across one or more pay lines.

28. The device of Claim 24 where M equals 3 and N equals 5.
29. The device of Claim 24 wherein said at least one special symbol is selected for a position in a row and column in said matrix, wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert symbols to the left of said special symbol in said row to another symbol.
30. The device of Claim 29 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert said symbols to the left of said special symbol to a symbol in the leftmost position of said row.
31. The device of Claim 24 wherein said at least one special symbol is selected for a position in a row and column in said matrix, wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert symbols to the right of said special symbol in said row to another symbol.
32. The device of Claim 31 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert said symbols to the right of said special symbol to a symbol in the rightmost position of said row.
33. The device of Claim 24 wherein said special symbol is selected for a position in a row and column in said matrix, and wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert symbols adjoining said special symbol to special symbols.
34. The device of Claim 24 wherein said special symbol is selected for a position in a row and column in said matrix, and wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert symbols in certain positions in said matrix to other symbols.
35. The device of Claim 24 wherein said special symbol is a wild card which represents a symbol of a highest value across a pay line.
36. The device of Claim 24 further comprising a payout table for determining, after conversion of said symbols, whether symbols in said matrix include a winning combination of symbols across at least one pay line.

37. The device of Claim 36 wherein said at least one pay line comprises horizontal pay lines.

38. The device of Claim 37 wherein said at least one pay line further comprise bent pay lines.

5 39. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry comprises a pseudo-random number generator for randomly selecting certain ones of said other symbols for conversion.

40. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert certain ones of said other symbols to said special symbol.

10 41. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry comprises a pseudo-random number generator for randomly selecting certain ones of said other symbols for conversion to said special symbol.

42. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert at least one symbol on a pay line to another symbol on said pay line.

15 43. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert at least one special symbol to another symbol selected by a player.

44. The device of Claim 24 wherein said control circuitry controls said display device to convert any symbols on a pay line to the left of a special symbol to a leftmost symbol on said pay line and convert any symbols on said pay line to the right of said special  
20 symbol to a rightmost symbol on said pay line.